

half. If we look at table 9, it seems that the least information was given at LTS and ETO.

Conclusions

Smoking habit

smoking, once.

- There is a higher tolerance with regard to smoking. Almost a fourth (22,5%) of the school-going youth admitted to smoke regularly at home while only 5.4% dared to smoke at school. It appears, therefore, that more is allowed at home than at school.
- Although there is a higher tolerance towards girls, more people of the male gender smoke than people of the female gender.
- More is allowed at home than at school while demonstrating tough behavior during social events stimulates young people to smoke.
- Almost a fifth of the youth in Suriname starts smoking before age 10. This is an alarming fact!
- 72.4% of the non-smokers and 73.0% of the smokers admits to have received the necessary information with regard to the harmful consequences of smoking from a family member at home. The information had no effect therefore on the habit of smoking.
- That expert information is necessary is proven by the fact that three-quarters of the active smokers would rather stop smoking now. 68% has tried to stop smoking in the past year but without success.
- Boys drink more than girls. More boys (62.8%) than girls (46.0%) have experimented with smoking. Among fervent smokers who have smoked on at least 20 days during the past 30 days, the number of boys is also larger (5.7%) than the number of girls (0.6%). Notwithstanding this fact, there is a greater tolerance in the society towards girls who smoke. 48.7% of the girls against 9.9% of the boys smoke at home.
- Most smokers can be found at ETO, no less than 72.1% has experimented once with cigarettes. Still, there were no fervent smokers on ETO. On LTS, 69.0% answered this question with “Yes” and there were indeed fervent smokers among LTS students (7.4%). The urge to act tough is greatest at ETO and LTS because they are not allowed to smoke at home. Only 6.7% and 7.9% respectively claim to smoke regularly at home. Most smoking occurs at social events (43.1% and 48.8% respectively) and in public places (30.8% and 27.0% respectively). A reverse situation can be seen among MULO and LBGO students. These youngsters are allowed more at home. The percentages of MULO students smoking regularly at home are 22.5% and 32.1% for LBGO students. Only 6.5% of the MULO students smoke at school, none of the LBGO students smoke at school.
- Almost half of the students age 12 (43.7%) have experimented once with smoking. As they get older they start smoking more since the percentage of students age 16 and up who are smoking is 61.4%. An alarming fact is that 19% of the school-going youth admits to have smoked before the age of 10. Almost a fifth of the young people in Suriname start smoking before they are teenagers.

Knowledge and attitude towards smoking

13.7% of the non-smokers are potential smokers because they do not know how they will react if their best friend offered them a cigarette. Most students receive information at home with regard to the harmful effects of smoking but there are no results. The conclusion can be made expertise and approach to tackle this problem is lacking at home. The information received by

enough. Among non-smokers only 38.0% and among smokers only 36.5% is convinced that it is difficult to stop once someone starts smoking.

Knowledge and exposure of smoking

Both non-smokers (87.1%) and smokers (72.2%) share the opinion that smoking is harmful to your health. A strikingly low percentage of the non-smokers (62.8%) and of the smokers (43.2%) shares the opinion that smoking from others is harmful and 31.2% even states that they are not convinced that smoking from others can harm your health. Although many students do not smoke, they are more than often exposed to smoking from others. 50.0% of the non-smokers experience this at home and 60% experience this elsewhere. So many non-smokers are passive smokers.

Attitude towards stopping with smoking

A third-quarter of the smokers would rather stop smoking but do not succeed. Most people stop smoking because of health reasons.

Knowledge about media messages

The largest number of students (75%) sees cigarette advertisements regularly while approximately 68% remarks anti-smoking advertisements insufficiently.

What is taught at school

Less than half of the students learn at school about the harmful effects of smoking. It is recommended to start an aggressive anti-smoking campaign already at primary school.

Recommendations

- It is recommended not to allow smoking during social events.
- If an anti-smoking campaign is held among young people in future, it must be considered that success is only possible if the parents are involved as well.

- It is recommended to apply the same rules for boys and girls; so there should not be more tolerance towards girls.
- An aggressive anti-smoking campaign must be held.
- In order to achieve an effective result, it is important to increase information with regard to the harmful effects of smoking.
- A tax increase on cigarettes so that it becomes less accessible.